

ROALD DAHL

# MRS. BIXBY AND THE COLONEL'S COAT



Complete the gapped text with the mixed words that follow.

accuse; horror; neck; dentist; fabulous; claiming; assistant, lover; worthless; surprised; valuable; duplicitous; gift; eager; claim; pawnbroker; end; aunt; taxicab; scheming

The story "Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's Coat" is about a hard-working \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ wife. Mrs Bixby leaves home once a month to visit her \_\_\_\_\_ in Baltimore, but really she spends her time with her \_\_\_\_\_, the Colonel. On this particular occasion she receives a parting \_\_\_\_\_ from the Colonel, and when she opens it on the train home she is amazed to find an extremely beautiful and \_\_\_\_\_ mink coat. In a note the Colonel explains that their relationship has to \_\_\_\_\_, but Mrs Bixby is consoled by the thought of her \_\_\_\_\_ new possession. Immediately she begins \_\_\_\_\_ and trying to think of a story she can tell her husband about where she obtained it.

She decides to visit a \_\_\_\_\_ and borrow \$50 against the coat, receiving a blank pawn ticket in return. When she gets home she tells her husband that she found the ticket in a \_\_\_\_\_ and he excitedly explains how they go about \_\_\_\_\_ it. Since she doesn't want to be recognized by the pawnbroker, she lets him go to \_\_\_\_\_ the item after he promises that he'll give whatever it is to her. He calls her from work the next day to let her know that he has the item, and that she's going to be really \_\_\_\_\_ and happy. Mrs Bixby is too \_\_\_\_\_ to wait, so she goes to her husband's office to pick up the coat. Imagine her \_\_\_\_\_, then, when her husband places a mangy mink stole around her \_\_\_\_\_. She feigns happiness for his sake, while secretly planning to return to the pawnbroker and \_\_\_\_\_ him of switching the coat for this \_\_\_\_\_ item. On her way out of the office, though, she is passed by her husband's young \_\_\_\_\_-secretary, Miss Pulteney, wearing the "beautiful black mink coat that the Colonel had given to Mrs Bixby."